

March 15, 2005

Hon. Edward Gaffney, Chairman  
Michigan House Health Policy Committee  
521 House Office Building, Lansing, MI

Dear Rep. Gaffney,

I am writing in regards to Bill HB4403. This bill will require surgical technologists to be certified. I am a surgical technologist student and believe that this requirement is critical for the insurance of quality and safe patient care. It is only through rigorous training that we are able to meet the strict demands of the operating room and I believe that that knowledge should be documented and recorded prior to allowing anyone to perform our tasks of providing a sterile surgical procedure.

It was only recently that I read a personal profile in our hospital newsletter describing the life of one of our housekeeping staff responsible for cleaning the operating room following a procedure. In this account, she described how excited she was after being allowed to help open and set up for the next surgical procedure. I was appalled. This cross-over of duties should never be allowed due to the strict necessity of sterility in order to avoid allowing the patient to acquire a life threatening infection. Correct handling of all surgical instruments is crucial and requires precise knowledge. Would you want just anyone to assist in a critical surgery for one of your family members or loved ones? I would like to suggest that you would be relieved to know that the persons involved in performing that surgery were highly trained and that their training was certified.

Furthermore, only the surgeons share our knowledge of sterile technique, surgical procedures, and correct instrumentation. Our field should fall under their jurisdiction, not that of the nursing staff, who lack this knowledge.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Budnick".

Pam Budnick  
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